

House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

What you don't read on page 1



By State Representative John J. Ryan

Our most recent column on legislation concerning topics of local interest was followed by several conversations with readers who noted with approval that we do not attempt to recreate the 'headline of the day' in this space and rehash news that you are already aware of if you only scan page 1 of your daily paper. If you are not aware that Governor Rell is doing well after her cancer surgery, that we have had proposed legislation and debates on death penalty issues, and that we have another billion dollar-plus budget deficit hanging over the State Capitol, then we assume that you also won't be taking the time to read this column!

So moving on to more news about your State government that you will not find on page 1, in our effort to give you some better background on what is happening in Hartford :

- We're # 1!: Regrettably, we are not referring to a UConn basketball achievement, but to the news that your state is at the very top of the rankings for Tax Freedom Day, meaning that you have to work farther into the calendar year in Connecticut than in any other state, before you start working for yourself! This year, we are the clear winner with the latest Tax Freedom date, May 3; our next closest competitor, New York, comes in at April 29. To get more details on the unhappy distinction, you can visit the Tax Foundation's website at:
<http://www.taxfoundation.org/taxfreedomday.html>
- More tax increase proposals!: As if the last item was not cheery enough, I am sorry to report that we have not had the space in this column to let you know all of the bad news that is "out there" on the spending and tax increase fronts. You may recall that in the past I voted against increases in the real estate conveyance tax (another tax that unfairly targets Fairfield County where housing is more expensive), and the tax was passed with the rationale that it would only be 'temporary' and was scheduled to be "sunsetting"; Well, surprise! As I told a local group of realtors recently at the Capitol who were present for 'Realtor's Day' that if I had to predict the future of our budget issues, not only would the conveyance tax increase NOT be sunsetted, I would be concerned about further increases. And then there is pending legislation (see House Bill 6393) that would implement a completely new BUYER'S conveyance tax to give municipalities the option of imposing an 'entry fee' conveyance tax in the amount of .25% to 1.0% on property exceeding \$100,000 ! (I assume that you can guess which area of the state would pay the largest share of such a tax if implemented, and also assume that you can guess my views on these proposals.)
- Have you enjoyed the TV commercials about state funding of our school systems and the need for 'The Wealthy' to pay more ?; And did you assume that this might be the latest version of the so-called 'millionaire's tax' that most Democrats have proposed? You might care to look at proposed Senate Bill 1213 and Senate Bill 1321 to get an idea of what the imminent Democrat majority budget proposal will be (increasing income tax rates in successive stages, e.g. for single filers at \$133,800 to 5.5%, at \$267,500 to 5.75%, at \$531,500 to 6%.....)

- We don't want to ignore: Items such as House Bill 5948, which would increase the corporate income tax on companies with a net income of \$1 million or more from 7.5% to 10%, and Senate Bill 472 that would decouple Connecticut's estate tax from the Federal tax (meaning bringing back taxes on Connecticut estates that we had been phasing down)! Again, these proposals will give you an idea of what is coming very shortly when the legislative majority budget proposal is announced.
- And as we are running out of room this week: Did you miss the small Associated Press news item that Lieutenant Governor Kevin Sullivan, a likely candidate as a Democrat for Governor in 2006, is "already spending, on average, about \$11,000 more per month than his predecessor, now Governor M. Jodi Rell" to run the Lt. Governor's office, and has already asked the Appropriations Committee for an additional \$51,400 above what has already been budgeted?

Remember, it's your government, so pay attention!

Please feel free to contact me with your concerns and issues. As your state representative, it is my job, and my priority to represent you and to make sure that your needs and concerns are addressed at the capitol. You can write to me at Room 4200, Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT 06106-1591, send me e-mail at John.Ryan@housegop.state.ct.us or call my office toll-free at 1-800-842-1423.